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Office of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, }  
Lansing, Michigan, October, 1873. }

**To the Physicians of Michigan :**

DOCTORS :—Your careful attention is respectfully called to the subject of Section 1735, Compiled Laws of 1871, which reads as follows : “Whenever any physician shall know that any person whom he is called to visit is infected with the small-pox, *or any other disease dangerous to the public health*, such physician shall immediately give notice thereof to the Board of Health or health officer of the township in which such diseased person may be ; and every physician who shall refuse or neglect to give such notice, shall forfeit, for each offense, a sum not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.” \*

By referring to the following statement of the deaths from certain contagious or infectious diseases in this State during the years 1869-70 you will be able to judge approximately as to the relative “danger to the public health” connected with these several diseases.

Number of Deaths in Michigan from certain “Diseases dangerous to the Public Health.”

| DISEASES.           | YEAR. |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
|                     | 1870. | 1869. |
| Small-pox.....      | 9     | 42    |
| Scarlet Fever.....  | 852   | 252   |
| Typhoid Fever.....  | 574   | 437   |
| Measles.....        | 56    | 147   |
| Whooping Cough..... | 119   | 158   |
| Total.....          | 1,610 | 1,036 |

It will be seen that some other diseases are at present attended with very much more danger to life, as well as to health, than is small-pox. It is believed that very many of the deaths here recorded might have been prevented

\* Section 1734 provides that all householders shall give a similar notice, or “forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.”

by the same means (excepting vaccination) which were generally employed in the case of small-pox. In other words, with the exception of vaccination, the same methods now employed in cases of small-pox, if applied to the prevention of these other diseases, should reduce the deaths from scarlatina, for instance, from 852 down more nearly to the number from small-pox, thus saving in each year the lives of perhaps several hundred children.

In order that the State Board of Health may study to good advantage these "diseases dangerous to the public health" it will be necessary for the local Boards of Health to report the facts concerning them; and this they will be able to do if the physicians throughout the State will be as particular to report these diseases to the local Boards of Health as they have heretofore been to report cases of small-pox. Without doubt this will sometimes be quite a tax upon the time of the physician, but even during epidemics of these diseases each physician can, by using postal cards, or some such method of notification, quite easily give to the local Boards of Health a knowledge of every case of "disease dangerous to the public health" occurring in his practice. If it is proper and desirable that a fee should be paid to the physician for each case reported for record, a law should be passed providing therefor; but the provisions of the present law are imperative, and are also important to the interests of the people, and should be faithfully executed, for a central Board can undoubtedly make the knowledge obtained in this manner of use in preventing sickness and deaths.

This Board desires to have a professional correspondent in every part of the State, and will, at any time, thankfully receive accurate and positive information concerning diseases or deaths from removable causes among the people of this State.

The State Board of Health having been created in consequence of the efforts of members of the medical profession, it desires and expects the earnest co-operation of the physicians of Michigan, whose sole professional business in life is the relief of human suffering, and who, more than any other class of people, are noted for their philanthropy and benevolence. It is therefore unnecessary to do more than to point out to them the fact that the knowledge which they will be able, directly and indirectly, to furnish to this Board, will eventually be of great value to the people, as it will form a part of the stock which this Board expects to collect and utilize for the prevention of diseases and deaths. Inasmuch as this knowledge is expected to be useful to the people, and costs more or less of professional time and effort, it is hoped and believed that the people will soon gladly make provision for recompensing such labor. Indeed it is hoped that the relations between the physicians and the people will eventually be so changed that instead of being paid wholly for efforts to prevent the death of diseased people, physicians will be largely employed and paid for efforts for the prevention of sickness. In the meantime, it is assumed that every physician will be prompted to do even more than the law requires, and will cheerfully and promptly comply with its provisions.

Herewith please find copies of a sample blank for your use in notifying the clerks of your local Boards of Health. The law simply requires that you "immediately give notice" etc., but if you will add the other items suggested, it is believed you will advance the interests of public health, and merit the gratitude of the people.

By direction of the State Board of Health.

Very respectfully,

HENRY B. BAKER, M. D.,

*Secretary.*

[This circular is sent to every person in the State who is known at this office to be a practitioner of medicine. Any person knowing of a physician who does not receive a copy, will confer a favor by sending the address of such physician to this office.]



[Form of Notice recommended by the State Board of Health for the use of Householders and Physicians, in complying with sections 1734 and 1735, Compiled Laws of 1871. See over.]

To the Clerk of the\* ..... of ..... County of .....  
State of Michigan, as clerk of the Board of Health:

SIR:—The following persons in your\* ..... have been taken sick with “diseases dangerous to the public health.”†

| FULL NAMES OF PERSONS. | SEX. | AGE<br>LAST<br>BIRTH-<br>DAY. | NAME OF DISEASE. | TAKEN SICK. |      |       | WHETHER<br>DIED,<br>LIVING, OR<br>RECOVERED. | DATE OF DEATH<br>OR RECOVERY. |      |       |
|------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------|-------|--|-------------------------------|------|-------|
|                        |      |                               |                  | MONTH.      | DAY. | YEAR. |  | MONTH.                        | DAY. | YEAR. |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |

So far as known, the source . . . of the contagious or infectious cause . . . of the disease . . . . as follows : For case

No. 1, it was .....

Dated at ..... 187..

Furnished for record by .....

\* Insert the word township, city, or village.

† Includes Small-pox, Cholera, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, etc.

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|                        |      |                               |                  | MONTH.      | DAY. | YEAR. |  | MONTH.                        | DAY. | YEAR. |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |
|                        |      |                               |                  |             |      |       |  |                               |      |       |

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Compliments of

R. C. KEDZIE, M. D.,

Member of the State Board of Health,

LANSING, MICH.

Circular of the Sec. to the Physicians of Mich. directing  
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(1734.) SEC. 43. Whenever any householder shall know that any person within his family is taken sick with the small-pox, *or any other disease dangerous to the public health*, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the Board of Health, or to the health officer of the township in which he resides; and if he shall refuse or neglect to give such notice, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.

(1735.) SEC. 44. Whenever any physician shall know that any person whom he is called to visit is infected with the small-pox, *or any other disease dangerous to the public health*, such physician shall immediately give notice thereof to the Board of Health or health officer of the township in which such diseased person may be; and every physician who shall refuse or neglect to give such notice, shall forfeit, for each offense, a sum not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.

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